

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for filling an aperture in a wheel, the wheel having a tire engaging portion, an axle engaging portion having a plurality of lug receiving openings, and a connecting portion extending between the tire engaging portion and the axle engaging portion, the connecting portion having a front side and a rear side and a plurality of apertures extending from the front side through to the rear side; and
6 at least one wheel inserts insertable into at least one of the plurality of apertures
7 in the connecting portion of the wheel, each wheel insert comprising a front insert side
8 and a rear insert side;
9 the method comprising:
10 securing a wheel insert into an aperture in the connecting portion of the wheel.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the connecting portion aperture further comprises, inserting the wheel insert into the aperture from the rear side of the connecting portion.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture further comprises, inserting the wheel insert into the aperture from the front side of the connecting portion of the wheel.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture further comprises, securing a plurality wheel inserts into a plurality of apertures into the connecting portion of the wheel.

4 5. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the wheel insert into the aperture
5 further comprises, securing a plurality wheel inserts into a plurality of apertures into
6 connecting portions of a plurality of wheels.

1 6. A combination wheel and wheel insert comprising;
2 a wheel having tire engaging portion, an axle engaging portion having a plurality
3 of lug receiving openings, and a connecting portion extending between the tire engaging
4 portion and the axle engaging portion, the connecting portion having a front side and a
5 rear side;

6 the connecting portion having a plurality of apertures extending from the front
7 side through to the rear; and

8 a plurality of wheel inserts insertable into the plurality of apertures in the
9 connecting portion of the wheel, wherein each wheel insert is adapted to substantially fill
10 the apertures in the wheel.

1 7. The combination wheel and wheel insert of claim 6, wherein a side of the
2 wheel insert exposed to view along a front surface of the wheel has design indicia
3 thereon.

1 8. A wheel insert for insertion into an aperture in a wheel comprising;
2 a front side and a rear side, wherein the wheel insert fits into and substantially
3 fills the aperture in the wheel.

1 9. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein a side exposed to view along a front
2 surface of the wheel has design indicia thereon.

1 10. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 same material as the wheel.

1 11. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 different material than the wheel.

1 12. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 transparent material.

1 13. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from an
2 opaque colored plastic material.

1 14. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from a
2 base metal and is covered with another material.

1 15. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert is fabricated from one
2 of a metal, an alloy of metals, and a composite material.

1 16. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert further comprises a
2 fastening mechanism for securing the wheel insert to the wheel.

1 17. The wheel insert of claim 8, wherein the wheel insert further comprises at
2 least one edge adapted to cooperatively mate with an interior edge of the aperture in
3 the wheel.